



GROCERY MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA

MAKERS OF THE WORLD'S FAVORITE BRANDS OF
FOOD, BEVERAGES, AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS

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March 31, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) 7 2 4 4 '99 APR -1 P2:08
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Food Additive Petition Expedited Review -- Guidance for Industry and Center
for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, 64 Fed. Reg. 517 (January 5, 1999);
[Docket No. 98D-1164]

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Grocery Manufacturers of America (GMA) welcomes this opportunity to comment on the above-referenced guidance document, published by the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition's (CFSAN) Office of Premarket Approval on January 5, 1999. GMA is the world's largest association of food, beverage and consumer product companies. With U.S. sales of more than \$450 billion, GMA members employ more than 2.5 million workers in all 50 states. The organization applies legal, scientific and political expertise from its member companies to vital food, nutrition and public policy issues affecting the industry. Led by a board of 44 Chief Executive Officers, GMA speaks for food and consumer product manufacturers at the state, federal and international levels on legislative and regulatory issues. The association also leads efforts to increase productivity, efficiency and growth in the food, beverage and consumer products industry.

GMA supports the Food and Drug Administration's efforts to streamline the food additive petition process. A more rapid and efficient review procedure will ensure continued research and development of new food ingredients that offer improvements in the safety and nutritional content of our food supply.

GMA believes, however, that expedited review should not be limited to those food additives intended to decrease the incidence of foodborne illness. In view of the strong, scientifically established link between diet and public health, food additives that offer a nutritional and health advantages over existing ingredients also represent potentially important advances in public safety. Accordingly, GMA strongly urges CFSAN and the Office of Premarket Approval to expand the expedited review policy to include these additives. This approach will ensure that the food additive review process responds most efficiently to the needs of public health, both long and short term.

GMA appreciates this opportunity to share its views with CFSAN and the Office of Premarket Approval. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202/295-3943, if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Stacey A. Zawel
Vice President, Scientific & Regulatory Policy

98D-1164

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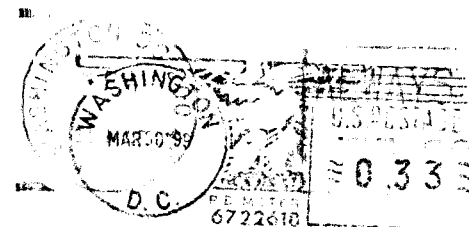
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